

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening or eliminating the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principle display panel indicating such treatment. The statements should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is an entirely different process involving rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure is not adequate.

Besides concerns about treated food we must address issues with what is done with the radioactive wastes left over from the irradiation process. There are no permanent disposal sites for waste materials, Radioactive materials remain dangerous for hundreds to thousands of years and we

have nothing that can contain them for that long.
This is one reason why the government stopped
building nuclear power plants. Recently in a part
of Maryland the drinking water became contaminated
by a sewage leak and some people that drank the
water became sick. How much worse could this have
been if it was a radioactive leak.

Consumers have a right-to-know how their food
has been processed. Please ensure that labeling
requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely,

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